Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Every year thousands of South Dakotans become a crime victim and experience emotional, physical, psychological, and financial harm as a result of criminal activity; and,

Whereas, Over 44,000 serious criminal offenses were reported in South Dakota during 2014 according to the most recent report from the Office of Attorney General Criminal Statistical Analysis Center; and,

Whereas, The preservation of peace in our communities and protection from violence for all citizens of South Dakota are fundamental priorities of government; and,

Whereas, Americans are the victims of more than 20 million crimes each year, and crime can touch the lives of anyone regardless of age, abilities, and all economic, racial, and social backgrounds; and,

Whereas, Victim services programs and public safety organizations throughout South Dakota collaborate to provide vital services to victims, including crisis intervention, hotlines, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, and programs for children; and,

Whereas, Honoring the rights of victims, including the right to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems; and,

Whereas, National Crime Victims' Rights Week is an opportunity to build upon the decades of progress and hard work, and renew our commitment to ensuring that crime victims' rights are a priority; and,

Whereas, Victim services providers, criminal justice officials, and crime victims are joining forces to raise awareness of victims' rights; and I invite all citizens of South Dakota to join me in observing National Crime Victims' Rights Week:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 10-16, 2016, as

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirty-first Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State